

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

PART: 1 OF 4

FILE NUMBER: HQ 157-2466



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT:

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

PART 1 OF 4

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535

Subject of Request: **Deacons for Defense and Justice**

FOIPA NO.

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

Section 552

- ☒ (b)(1)
- ☐ (b)(2)
- ☐ (b)(3)
- ☐ (b)(4)
- ☐ (b)(5)
- ☐ (b)(6)

Section 552a

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A) | <input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B) | <input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7) |

(See Form OPCA-16a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, **1580** preprocessed pages are being released.

The documents responsive to your request were previously processed for another requester. In order to provide the information you requested as soon as possible, we have released the FBI information as it was originally processed. We have not contacted other government agencies concerning their information in FBI files.

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

1-6-65

Date

We are disseminating this
information to the Civil Rights
Division of the Department.

AJD

WCS
ph

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP18L/jv

DECODED COPY

Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☒ RADIO ☐ TELETYPE

R-75
URGENT 1-6-65
TO DIRECTOR
FROM NEW ORLEANS 061952

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, JONESBORO LOUISIANA, PERCY
LE BRADFORD, PRESIDENT, RM. RACIAL MATTER

[REDACTED] JONESBORO
LOUISIANA ADVISED THAT CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ORGANIZED
IN JACKSON PARISH AT JONESBORO LOUISIANA AND THAT IT
HAS FOR ITS PURPOSES MUCH THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE CONGRESS OF
RACIAL EQUALITY (CORE) BUT THAT CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION IS
MORE MILITANT THAN CORE AND THAT IT WOULD BE MORE INCLINED
TO USE VIOLENCE IN DEALING WITH ANY VIOLENT OPPOSITION
ENCOUNTERED IN CIVIL RIGHTS MATTERS. CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION
HAS NIGHT PATROLS IN THE NEGRO SECTIONS OF JONESBORO AND
BELIEVES THAT THESE NIGHT PATROLS ARE ARMED.

1 LHM FOLLOWS.
LHM head memo
RECEIVED: 3:57 PM RDR

MCT-21

2466-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gcl/jv

2 JAN 12 1965

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

FBI

Date: 1/6/65

REC 8
P-2

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-New)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-New)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE OF JUSTICE,
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA,
PERCY LEE BRADFORD, PRESIDENT
RM

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight (8) copies
of LHM re captioned matter.

③ - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - New Orleans
EC/med
(5)

REC 8

157-2466-2

JAN 12 1965

Agency G-2, ONI, OSI, CRD, SS, C-95

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Date Forw. JAN 8 1965

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gsh/br

How Forw. B-5

By Abt - med

/ Room 828 RB

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

JAN 18 1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
January 6, 1964

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE OF JUSTICE,
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA,
PERCY LEE BRADFORD, PRESIDENT

[REDACTED] Jonesboro,
Louisiana, advised January 5, 1965 that an organi-
zation known as Deacons for Defense of Justice,
with Percy Lee Bradford, Negro male, age about 44,
as president, has been organized at Jonesboro,
Louisiana. He stated that this organization was
organized to promote Negroes' civil rights and
that its purposes were much the same as those of
CORE. He stated that whereas CORE is completely
non-violent in its methods of dealing with civil
rights matters, Deacons for Defense of Justice would
be more militant and inclined to use violence in
dealing with any violent opposition encountered.
He stated that Deacons for Defense of Justice has
night patrols in the Negro sections of Jonesboro and
he feels that these night patrols are armed.

[REDACTED] advised this
organization was a non-violent Negro movement
organized exclusively within Jackson Parish, Louisiana.
He stated its purpose was to promote justice for the
Negro and followed the same principals as laid down
by the CORE except its members would, if attacked,
defend themselves by use of force.

He said this organization has two citizens
band radios and walkie talkies used to communicate
with one another in case violence against the Negro
is initiated in Jackson Parish. He said there was
between 250 and 300 members within the parish and they

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP12d/jf

ENCLOSURE 104-14612

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 23 1963

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

8:46 PM / CST

URGENT 2-23-65 RJS

To DIRECTOR

FROM NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, PERCY

4 ~~LEE~~ BRADFORD; RM.

ADVISED FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING CAPTIONED MATTER:

2 [REDACTED] STATED THAT IT WAS LEARNED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF
3

FEBRUARY TWENTY ONE, LAST, SIX CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY,

PAREN CORE END PAREN, MEMBERS APPEARED AT BOGALUSA, AT

WHICH TIME THEY HELD A MEETING AT THE NEGROES LABOR HALL. THIS

MEETING/ WAS ATTENDED BY SEVERAL BOGALUSA NEGRO LEADERS

2END PAGE ONE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP/BS

67 MAR 9 1965

NOT CONTAINED
CLASSIFIED
BY SP1/STK
INT/STK

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14 PAGE TWO

15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS
24
25 TO DISCUSS AN ORGANIZATION NOW BEING PUT TOGETHER IN LOUISIANA
26
27 KNOWN AS THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. PAREN DDJ END PAREN.
28
29 THE MAIN SPEAKER OF THE EVENING WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ERNEST THOMAS
30
31 WHO DISCUSSED THE FACT THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THE DDJ, PAREN STRICTLY
32
33 NEGRO END PAREN, WOULD COST TEN DOLLARS INITIATION FEE
34
35 AND TWO DOLLARS PER MONTH. TEN PERCENT OF THE MONIES OBTAINED
36
37 FROM THE LOCAL CHAPTERS WOULD BE CHANELLED INTO THE HEADQUARTERS OF
38
39 THE STATE ORGANIZATION WHICH IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE AT JONESBORO,
40
41 LOUISIANA.
42

43 IT WAS EXPLAINED, THE PURPOSE OF THE MONEY WAS TO BUY
44
45 RADIO EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING WALKY DASH TALKIES, CITIZENS BAND
46
47 EQUIPMENT, FOR AUTOMOBILES, AS WELL AS AMMUNITION, LITERATURE,
48
49 AND OTHER EQUIPMENT NOT IDENTIFIED. DISCUSSED IN CONSIDERABLE
50
51 LENGTH WAS THE PUTTING OF MOBIL CITIZENS BAND RADIOS INTO AUTOMOBILES
52

53 END PAGE TWO
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b7C
b7D

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10 PAGE THREE

11
12 OF NEGRO MEMBERS, PRINCIPALLY IN BOGALUSA. IT WAS REPORTED THAT
13
14 THOMAS WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE DDJ INTENDED TO ESTABLISH A CODE
15
16 SYSTEM WHEREBY A STATE WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SET UP COULD BE CREATED,
17
18 IN ORDER THAT, IF NEGROES IN ONE COMMUNITY HAVE DIFFICULTY, THE

19
20
21
22
23
24 NEGROES COULD IMMEDIATELY CALL ON THE RADIO FOR ASSISTANCE AND GET
25
26 ASSISTANCE. THOMAS TALKED AT LENGTH ABOUT THE USE AND ADVANTAGES
27
28 OF WALKIE TALKIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR COMMUNICATION PURPOSES.

29
30 THOMAS THEN DISCUSSED A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF NEGROES
31
32 TO BUY CHEAP WEAPONS LIKE A TWENTY TWO CALIBER. THOMAS POINTED
33
34 OUT THAT NEGROES SHOULD BUY SUBSTANTIAL WEAPONS INCLUDING A THREE
35
36 ZERO SIX CALIBER RIFLE. THOMAS SUGGESTED THAT TWELVE OR SIXTEEN
37
38 GAGE SHOTGUNS WERE GOOD FOR QUOTE CLOSE IN WORK UNQUOTE. THOMAS

39
40 SAID THAT IF STANDARDIZED GAGES WERE OBTAINED THE NEGROES IN
41
42 COMMUNITIES COULD BUY SHELLS BY THE CASE. THOMAS SAID THAT
43
44 NEGROES SHOULD KEEP PLENTY OF AMMUNITION IN THEIR CARS, IN
45
46 THEIR HOMES, AS THEY NEVER KNEW WHEN THEY WOULD NEED THE AMMUNITION
47
48 AND THEY WERE TO BE EXPECTED TO BE READY

49
50 END PAGE THREE
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12 PAGE FOUR

13 WHENEVER THEY WERE CALLED UPON.

15 THOMAS SAID THAT HIS GROUP HAS CONTACTS IN CHICAGO AND
16
17 HOUSTON FOR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND MENTIONED A FIFTY CALIBER AND
18
19 FIFTY CALIBER MACHINE GUN.

21 THOMAS STATED, REFERRING TO THE KU KLUX-KLAN AND WHITE
22
23 PEOPLE GENERALLY, THAT IF KKK OR WHITE PEOPLE WANTED VIOLENCE, THAT
24
25 QUOTE THEY INTENDED TO COMBAT VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE; THAT THEY
26
27 HAD NO INTENTION OF STARTING ANYTHING THEMSELVES BUT WANTED TO BE
28
29 READY UNQUOTE.

31 THOMAS DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH THE ADVANTAGES OF
32
33 HAVING ROVING PATROLS IN THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES SO THAT
34
35 SHOULD ANY NEGRO BE ARRESTED BY A POLICE OFFICER, THAT THE
36
37 ROVING PATROL AS WITNESSES TO ANY ARREST, COULD IMMEDIATELY
38
39 DEFEND THE POSITION OF THE ARRESTED PERSON. THOMAS SAID THAT IF
40
41 POLICE OFFICERS SEE NEGROES WHO ARE ARMED AS THE POLICE ARE,
42
43 THE POLICE COULD BE EXPECTED TO PROBABLY BACK AWAY AND NOT AFFECT
44
45 THE ARREST OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

47 THOMAS DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP, IF
48
49 THEY SHOULD JOIN, TO GET TOGETHER WITH THEIR NEGRO LEADERS, THE
50
51 PREACHERS, SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS, AND
52

53 END PAGE FOUR
54
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PAGE FIVE

REACH TO AND EMPHASIZE TO THESE LEADER THAT IF THESE LEADERS
DO NOT GO ALONG WITH THIS ACTIVITY THAT THEY WERE NOT FIT IN THE
FIRST PLACE. THOMAS POINTED OUT IF THE LOCAL MEMBERS IF THE DDJ
WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN WORKING ON NEGRO LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY
AND CONVINCING THEM THAT THEY, REFERRING TO CORE, WOULD DO IT
FOR THEM.

A FURTHER MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE DDJ IS SCHEDULED AT BOGALUSA
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY TWENTY EIGHT, SIXTY FIVE, AND ALL PROSPECTIVE
MEMBERS WERE REQUESTED TO BRING MONEY, DUES, AND INITIATION FEES.

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT BASED UPON THIS INFORMATION
THE BOGALUSA CITY ADMINISTRATION FELT THAT THE DDJ WOULD NOT
BE TOO SUCCESSFUL FROM THE STAND POINT OF MEMBERSHIP AND DUES
BUT WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES DISCUSSIONS OF THIS
TYPE WOULD HAVE AMONG THE NEGRO POPULATION IN THE BOGALUSA COMMUNITY.

ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY TWENTY TWO, SIXTYFIVE, IT WAS REPORTED
THAT ROBERT HICKS, A NEGRO LEADER IN BOGALUSA AND ACTIVE IN
CORE WORK SPOKE BEFORE THE BOGALUSA VOTERS LEAGUE AT A

END PAGE FIVE

5
6 PAGE SIX

7
8 MEETING CALLED TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE BOGALUSA NEGRO
9
10 COMMUNITIES COOPERATION WITH THE CITY ADMINISTRATION. HICKS
11
12 DISCUSSED AT GREAT LENGTH THE DDJ INFORMATION AS
13
14 DISCUSSED THE PREVIOUS EVENING BY ERNEST THOMAS. HICKS POINTED
15
16 OUT TO THE PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE WHO WERE MOSTLY TEENAGE CHILDREN,
17
18 THE ADVANTAGES OF ARMING THEMSELVES AND DISCUSSED HAND GRENADES,
19
20 WALKIE TALKIES, AND EXPLAINED GENERALLY WHAT WAS
21
22 STATED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT BY ERNEST THOMAS.

23
24 HICKS WENT INTO GREAT DETAIL CONCERNING HOW YOUNG NEGROES
25
26 COULD DEFEND THEMSELVES BY CONVERGING ON POLICE OFFICERS IF THE
27
28 POLICE WERE TRYING TO ARREST NEGROES AND CAUSE DIFFICULTY AT
29
30 THE TIME OF THE ARREST AND PREVENT THE NEGRO FROM BEING
31
32 ARRESTED.

33
34 SECRET SERVICE, NEW ORLEANS, AND INTELLIGENCE CORPS GROUP,
35
36 NEW ORLEANS, ARE BEING ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.
37
38 END.

39
40 ~~CORR PAGE TWO LINE THREE WORD EIGHT SHD BE UNIDENTIFIED~~

41
42 ~~PAGE THREE LINE FIVE OMIT LETTERS FB~~

43
44 ~~PAGE THREE LINE NINE WORD SHD BE DISCUSSED~~

45
46 ~~PAGE FOUR LINE NINETEEN WORD THREE SHD BE JOIN~~

47
48 END AND ACK PLS

49
50 WA..RPP

51
52 FBI WASH DC

53
54 TH LRP

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FBI

Date: 2/24/65

Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in

(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)
SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND
JUSTICE, JONESBORO, LOUISIANA,
PERCY LEE BRADFORD
RM

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter, two copies for Houston, and two copies for Chicago. Copies have also been forwarded to ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

Source mentioned in letterhead memorandum is

CHICAGO AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Through established sources, informants, and gun outlets, determine whether or not any shipments of guns are being made to the Jonesboro, Bogalusa, or New Orleans area.

HOUSTON DIVISION AT HOUSTON, TEXAS

Cover same lead as set forth for Chicago Division.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
- 2 - Houston (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Chicago (Enc. 2)
- 2 - New Orleans (1 - 157-3290)
(1 - 173-201)

JTS/mrk
(9)

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1 cc destroyed by
Nlan-Hate Group Unit

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER
DEPT ISD, CRD

DATE FORW: 3-1-65
HOW FORW: routing slip
BY: [signature]

E. L. Wick

REC-28

157-3290-4

Approved: [signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

MAR 3 1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana

February 24, 1965

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE

On February 22, 1965, a confidential source advised the following information concerning the captioned matter:

Source stated that it was learned that on the night of February 21, 1965, six Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE) members appeared at Bogalusa, at which time they held a meeting at the Negroes Labor Hall. This meeting was attended by several Bogalusa Negro leaders,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Source reported the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss an organization now being put together in Louisiana known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ). The main speaker of the evening was believed to have been Ernest Thomas who discussed the fact that membership in the DDJ (strictly Negro) would cost \$10 initiation fee and \$2 per month. Ten per cent of the monies obtained from the local chapters would be channelled into the headquarters of the state organization which is now believed to be at Jonesboro, Louisiana.

It was explained the purpose of the money was to buy radio equipment, including walkie-talkies, citizens band equipment for automobiles, as well as ammunition, literature, and other equipment not identified. Discussed in considerable length was the putting of mobile citizens band radios into

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-82 BY SP1 gcl/Hr

ENCLOSURE

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10 DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
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13 automobiles of Negro members, principally in Bogalusa. It was
14 reported that Thomas went on to explain the DDJ intended to
15 establish a code system whereby a state-wide communications set
16 up could be created in order that, if Negroes in one community
17 have difficulty, the Negroes could immediately call on the radio
18 for assistance and get assistance. Thomas talked at length
19 about the use and advantages of walkie-talkies and equipment
20 for communication purposes.
21

22 Thomas then discussed a tendency on the part of
23 Negroes to buy cheap weapons like a .22 caliber. Thomas
24 pointed out that Negroes should buy substantial weapons,
25 including a .306 caliber rifle. Thomas suggested that 12 or
26 16 gage shotguns were good for "close in work." Thomas said
27 that if standardized gages were obtained, the Negroes in
28 communities could buy shells by the case. Thomas said that
29 Negroes should keep plenty of ammunition in their cars, in
30 their homes, as they never knew when they would need the
31 ammunition, and they were to be expected to be ready whenever
32 they were called upon.
33

34 Thomas said that his group has contacts in Chicago
35 and Houston for automatic weapons and mentioned a .50 caliber
36 and .30 caliber machine gun.
37

38 Thomas stated, referring to the Ku Klux Klan and
39 white people generally, that if the Ku Klux Klan or white
40 people wanted violence, that "they intended to combat violence
41 with violence; that they had no intention of starting anything
42 themselves but wanted to be ready."
43

44 Thomas discussed at considerable length the advantages
45 of having roving Negro patrols in the various communities so
46 that should any Negro be arrested by a police officer, that the
47 roving patrol, as witnesses to any arrest, could immediately
48 defend the position of the arrested person. Thomas said that
49 if police officers see Negroes who are armed as the police are,
50 the police could be expected to probably back away and not
51 affect the arrest of the individual.
52

53 Thomas discussed the need for members of this group,
54 if they should join, to get together with their Negro leaders,
55 the preachers, school teachers, and other responsible persons,
56 and preach to and emphasize to their leaders that if their
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10 DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
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13 leaders do not go along with this activity, that they were not
14 fit in the first place. Thomas pointed out if the local members
15 of the DDJ were not successful in working on Negro leaders in
16 the community and convincing them that they, referring to CORE,
17 would do it for them.
18

19 A further membership meeting of the DDJ is scheduled
20 at Bogalusa on Sunday, February 28, 1965, and all prospective
21 members were requested to bring money, dues, and initiation
22 fees.
23

24 Source advised that based upon this information, the
25 Bogalusa City Administration felt that the DDJ would not be
26 too successful from the stand point of membership and dues but
27 were concerned about the difficulties discussions of this type
28 would have among the Negro population in the Bogalusa community.
29

30 On the night of February 22, 1965, it was reported
31 that Robert Hicks, a Negro leader in Bogalusa and active in
32 CORE work, spoke before the Bogalusa Voters League at a meeting
33 called to lend support to the Bogalusa Negro Communities
34 Cooperation with the City Administration. Hicks discussed
35 at great length the DDJ information as discussed the previous
36 evening by Ernest Thomas. Hicks pointed out to the people
37 in attendance, who were mostly teenage children, the advantages
38 of arming themselves and discussed hand grenades, walkie-
39 talkies, and explained generally what was stated the previous
40 night by Ernest Thomas.
41

42 Hicks went into great detail concerning how young
43 Negroes could defend themselves by converging on police officers
44 if the police were trying to arrest Negroes and cause difficulty
45 at the time of the arrest and prevent the Negro from being
46 arrested.
47

48
49
50
51 This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions
52 of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your
53 agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside
54 your agency.
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 2-26-65

FROM:

F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT:

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)1 - Belmont
1 - McGowan
1 - Sullivan1 - Baumgardner
1 - Trainor
1 - Gray
1 - Martin
1 - PhillipsTolson
Belmont
Mohr
DeLoach
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
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Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

This is an informative memorandum to report information obtained from [redacted] and two sources in that city concerning steps presently under way to organize the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ). At a meeting held at Bogalusa 2-21-65 which was for the purpose of discussing the initiation of the DDJ, several local Negro leaders were present including some members of the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE). One Ernest Thomas did most of the talking and explained the collection of initiation fees and dues, which monies would be used to purchase radio equipment, walkie-talkies, literature and ammunition. Thomas discussed the types of weapons which Negroes should purchase and said the group had contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons. The general tenor of Thomas' talk was that Negroes should arm themselves, not only for defensive reasons, but that they should have roving patrols so that if a Negro was being arrested by a police officer, other Negroes could come to the aid of the arrested person. Thomas said that if the Ku Klux Klan and white people generally wanted violence, they "intended to combat violence with violence."

[redacted] advised that upon information available the Bogalusa City Administration felt that the DDJ would not be too successful from the standpoint of membership and dues, but were concerned about the difficulties discussions of the type referred to above would have among the local Negro population

On 2-22-65 Robert Hicks, a Bogalusa Negro leader active in CORE, spoke before the Bogalusa Voters' League. He discussed Thomas' remarks of the previous evening before the DDJ and pointed out to those in attendance, most of whom were teenagers, the advantages of arming themselves. Hicks went into detail concerning how young Negroes could defend themselves by converging on police officers at the time the arrest of a Negro is being made.

157-2466

SFP:pdh
(9)

CONTINUED - OVER

5 MAR 3 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 JPL/fk

INT. SEC.

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
157-2466

ACTION:

We have instructed the New Orleans Office to immediately initiate an intensive investigation of the DDJ because of the potential for violence indicated. New Orleans has been instructed to be alert for indications of subversive and/or outside influence; to be alert to any spread of the organization even though it now appears to be confined locally; and to set out leads for other offices promptly. They have been instructed to develop necessary sources and run out the allegation that the group has contacts in Chicago and Houston for weapons. Dissemination has already been made to Secret Service and the military intelligence at New Orleans; we are disseminating to the Department, Secret Service and the intelligence community in Washington, D. C.

[Handwritten signatures and initials: "P" and "W" on the left, "fs" and a circle in the center, and a checkmark on the right]

2/26/65

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Trainor
1 - Mr. Gray
1 - Mr. Martin
1 - Mr. Phillips

AIRTEL

To: SAC, New Orleans (157-3290)

From: Director, FBI (157-2466)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Internal Security)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gsk/jk

Reurtel 2/23/65 which reported information obtained from [REDACTED] concerning steps presently underway to organize the Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ). A meeting was held 2/21/65 at Bogalusa with several Negro leaders present, including some members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Purpose of meeting was to discuss an organization being initiated in Louisiana known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice. One Ernest Thomas did most of the talking and explained the collection of initiation fees and dues, which moneys would be used to purchase radio equipment, walkie-talkies, literature and ammunition. Thomas discussed the types of weapons which Negroes should purchase and urged that they possess plenty of ammunition. He said his group had contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons.

The general tenor of Thomas' talk was that Negroes should arm themselves, not only for defensive reasons, but that they should have roving patrols so that if a Negro was being arrested by a police officer, other Negroes could come to the aid of the arrested person. Thomas said that if the Ku Klux Klan and white people generally wanted violence they "intended to combat violence with violence."

[REDACTED] advised that based upon information available, the Bogalusa City Administration felt that the DDJ would not be too successful from the standpoint of membership and dues, but were concerned about the difficulties

SFP:kao
(9)

REC-120

157-2466-6
18 MAR 5 1965

MAR 3 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

AIRTEL to SAC, New Orleans
RE: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
157-2466

discussions of the type referred to above would have among the local Negro population.

On 2/22/65 Robert Hicks, a Bogalusa Negro leader active in CORE, spoke before the Bogalusa Voters' League. He discussed Thomas' remarks of the previous evening before the DDJ and pointed out to the people in attendance, who were mostly teenage children, the advantages of arming themselves. Hicks went into detail concerning how young Negroes could defend themselves by converging on police officers at the time the arrest of a Negro is being made.

Bufiles reflect the only information available concerning the DDJ is that contained in your radiogram 1/6/65 and follow-up airtel and letterhead memorandum (LHM) 1/6/65 which reported on information obtained from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] concerning the initiation of this new organization. Percy Lee Bradford, identified as President of the DDJ in your 1/6/65 communications, is probably identical to the individual by the same name who is a victim in recent investigations by your office under the character "Public Accommodations, Civil Rights Act of 1964", [REDACTED].

There is no indication in communications submitted to date by your office that any investigation of captioned group is being initiated and it appears that the only sources from whom information has been received to date is [REDACTED] and the two individuals mentioned in the 1/6/65 LHM. Because of the potential for violence indicated, you are instructed to immediately initiate an investigation of the DDJ. Be alert for any indications of subversive and/or outside influence. Although it appears that the DDJ is confined locally, be alert to any spread of the organization and set out leads for investigation by other offices promptly. Develop information concerning the allegation of Thomas that his group has contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons. Intensify efforts to develop sources relative to the DDJ and be alert to the possibility of discouraging illegal arming and illegal acts by the group through interviews.

Expedite submission of LHM containing information in retel. It is noted that Secret Service, New Orleans, and Intelligence Corps Group, New Orleans, are being advised. Insure prompt local dissemination of all pertinent information as developed.

4
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6 AIRTEL to SAC, New Orleans
7 RE: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
8 157-2466
9

10
11 The Bureau must be kept promptly advised of all
12 developments relative to the DDJ and information suitable for
13 dissemination should be promptly submitted by LHM.
14

15 It is noted that retel contained no reference to any
16 prior communications whereas the information obviously tied in
17 with your 1/6/65 communications. Failure to include appropriate
18 reference, as required, results in an administrative burden at
19 the Seat of Government. Remind responsible personnel concerning
20 this matter.
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FBI

Date: 2/26/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

12 Via

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE-
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD
RM

Re New Orleans teletype, 2/23/65 and New Orleans
airtel, 2/24/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a
letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

Enclosed for Chicago and Houston is one copy of
above.

Copies furnished ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans

3-Bureau (Encls. 8)
1-Chicago (Encl. 1) (Info)
1-Houston (Encl. 1) (Info)
3-New Orleans (1-157-3290)
(1-173-201)
(1-157-3534)

FAS:cjo1 cc detached by
(S) Klan-Hate Group Unit

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER
DEPT ISD, CRD

DATE FORW: 3-5-65
HOW FORW: Meeting with
BY: [Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP18K/ff

REC-3 157-2466 7
EX-117
9 MAR 1 1965

C.C. Wick

ENCLOSURE

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ Per _____

67 MAR 15 1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

February 26, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

On February 24, 1965,

informed as follows concerning the captioned organization:

He stated that on the night of February 21, 1965, he had attended a meeting in the early evening of the 21 members of the Executive Committee of the Bogalusa Voters League.

He stated he subsequently found out that on the night of February 21, 1965, there had been a meeting attended by six members of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), three of whom he knew were [redacted] and [redacted]. He stated there were three colored members of CORE also in attendance, but he did not know specifically who they were.

He stated that he had no knowledge of the actual nature of the discussion of this particular group which met with some other Bogalusa Negro citizens; however, he learned of the results of this on the night of February 22, 1965, at which time they had a general meeting of the Bogalusa Voters League.

He stated on that occasion Robert Hicks, 924 East Ninth Street, Bogalusa, Louisiana, took the floor and told the meeting which was attended by about fifty percent adults and fifty percent teenagers, of the plans of the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP184/fj

ENCLOSURE

157 - 7

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

In overhearing Hicks' discussion of this matter which Hicks had obviously learned from the CORE people at the Sunday evening meeting, the Deacons for Defense of Justice intended to organize a group to promote civil rights and its purposes were much the same as those of CORE, except that this group intended to purchase citizens band, radio walkie-talkies and other equipment for the purpose of communicating with one another in case of violence against Negroes in the Bogalusa community.

He stated that they talked, apparently at this meeting, about arming the Negro population in order that if any difficulty should arise with the police or with the Ku Klux Klan, or any other group, that the Negroes would be in a position to defend themselves and defend their fellow citizens who may be in some sort of difficulty.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

He stated that plans to enroll Bogalusa citizens in the Deacons for Defense of Justice at \$10.00 per person plus dues, probably would not receive a warm welcome at Bogalusa, although he personally realized that a certain segment of the population in the Negro community would be affected by this sort of talk and that [REDACTED]

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

[REDACTED] was not in a position where he could appeal to these people on an intelligent level as this matter would be entirely emotional with them.

He stated that he hopes that he could do something to prevent development of this sort of activity in the Bogalusa community.

[REDACTED] advised on February 25, 1965, that on the night of February 21, 1965, a meeting was held at Bogalusa, Louisiana, among several of the local Negro citizens and six members of CORE who he identified as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and another Negro whose name he does not recall.

The nature of this meeting was to explain to the Bogalusa Negro community or its representatives, of the need for an organization to aid the Negro in protecting himself from elements in his community. He stated that this organization was to be known as the Deacons for the Defense of Justice and that the dues were to be \$10.00 initiation fee and \$2.00 per month per person. He stated that of this money a certain percentage would be contributed to the statewide headquarters which was to have been established at Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated that one of the CORE workers, [REDACTED] and Ernest Thomas, discussed the considerable length that the monies were to be used from the dues and initiation fees to pay radio equipment, including walkie-talkies, citizens band equipment, as well as ammunition and other various pieces of equipment. He stated that there was some discussion about the Negroes arming themselves and there was discussion about machine guns and purchase of machine guns as well as ammunition. [REDACTED]

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

He stated that he was not too sure at this time, however, as to whether this organization was a good thing in view of the discussion about weapons and ammunition and in essence, a new militant position. He stated that the members from CORE who had met with them had discussed the fact that they had a charter for this organization but that [REDACTED] had not yet seen the charter and he did not expect to take any further action as to actually soliciting membership until such time as he could see the charter, study it, and discuss it at some length with an attorney.

[REDACTED] indicated that there had been temporary persons elected by this group, but did not identify these temporary officers. He did, however, point out that there was to be an additional meeting of those people who were interested in the Deacons for Defense of Justice on Sunday night, February 28, 1965, but that he did not know at this time whether there would be any CORE representatives or whether the members from Jonesboro who had inaugurated this program would be and to further spell out the aims and purposes of the Deacons for Defense of Justice.

On February 26, 1965, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that on February 21, 1965, he, [REDACTED] appeared at two meetings in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

[REDACTED] stated that this organization was originated in the Jonesboro, Louisiana, area during the Summer of 1964. He stated that he believes the purpose of this organization is to assist Negroes in securing their rights to protect their homes and their families. [REDACTED] stated that this organization assists and advises Negroes as to the procurement of arms as well as instructs them how to obtain legal counsel in the event of court appearances.

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9 DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
10 JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
11 PERCY LEE BRADFORD
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15 [REDACTED] stated that Robert Hicks, a local Negro leader
16 in Bogalusa, Louisiana, is the representative of this organiza-
17 tion in the Bogalusa area. [REDACTED] stated that on Monday,
18 February 22, 1965, Robert Hicks addressed a meeting of the
19 local Negroes in Bogalusa at which time he stated that the
20 above captioned organization was being organized in the
21 Bogalusa area. b7C
b7D

22 [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] does
24 not approve of the above captioned organization in that he
25 feels that it is wrong for Negroes as part of an organization
26 to secure arms, but feels that it is justifiable for individual
27 Negro citizens to want to secure arms to defend their homes
28 and families.
29

30 [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any information as to
31 how the procurement of arms was handled by the Deacons for
32 Defense and Justice. [REDACTED] stated that he believes that this
33 organization will be formed in the Bogalusa area in the near
34 future.
35
36

37 This document contains neither recommendations nor
38 conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and
39 is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to
40 be distributed outside your agency.
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FBI

Date: 3/4/65

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD
RM

REC-3
B. Bond

Re New Orleans airtel of 2/24/65, and 2/26/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

[Handwritten signature]

Enclosed for Chicago and Houston is one copy of above.

Copies furnished ICG and Secret Service, New Orleans.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Encl. 8)
- 1 - Chicago (Encl. 1) (Info)
- 1 - Houston (Encl. 1) (Info)
- 3 - New Orleans (1: 157-3290)
(1: 173-201)
(1: 157-3534)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1/ger/h

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

FAS:sjt
(8)

1 cc detached by
Hate-Hate Group Unit REC-3

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER

DEPT ISD, CRD, Dept. of Commerce (CRS)

DATE FORW: 3-8-65

HOW FORW: *[Handwritten note]*

BY: *[Handwritten initials]*

157-24668

APR 10 1965

C. C. Wick

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

March 4, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

On March 1, 1965, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] informed that on the night of February 28, 1965, a volunteer meeting of the Deacons For Defense and Justice met at the Bogalusa Colored Union Hall, located on Third Avenue. He stated that this group which met was entirely local and was obviously a group which was following up the meeting of the previous week, which meeting had been attended by Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) members, and individuals from Jonesboro, Louisiana.

[REDACTED] stated that this meeting was obviously not attended by a sufficient number of Bogalusa Negro population to indicate much interest on the part of Bogalusa Negroes in the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

He provided the following names of those individuals who attended this meeting, which lasted approximately 35 or 40 minutes. He stated a total of 14 Negroes attended this meeting. Four of these individuals he was unable to identify. The others are as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1/24/jf

ENCLOSURE

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DEPT. OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that his inquiry into
[REDACTED] for will continue in
[REDACTED] for possible civic strife
[REDACTED] of organization.

[REDACTED] stated that of
[REDACTED] that this organi-
[REDACTED] to be successful in
[REDACTED] expression that his Negro
[REDACTED] of becoming affiliated in
[REDACTED] which in had its purpose

[REDACTED] the neither recommendations
[REDACTED] the property of the
[REDACTED] and its contents
[REDACTED] agency.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Memorandum

MR. BELMONT

DATE: March 15, 1965

FROM: J. H. GALE

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Mr. Harold Reis of the Department telephonically advised that Governor LeRoy Collins, Director of the Community Relations Service, was in to see the Attorney General this morning at which time Collins expressed a great deal of concern with reference to an organization known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice which is located in Jonesboro, Louisiana. He advised that the organization is led by an extremely militant Negro whose name he didn't know and is the Negro counterpart of the Minute Men. He was desirous of being furnished any background information we have on this organization and of any investigation we are conducting concerning the same.

A check with the Domestic Intelligence Division concerning this organization reveals our New Orleans Office has previously advised concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Information was furnished to the Civil Rights Division and the Internal Security Division of the Department by memoranda dated February 24, 1965, and March 4, 1965. The Deacons for Defense and Justice is a recently formed Negro organization in the State of Louisiana, including members of CORE and individuals from Jonesboro, Louisiana. At a meeting February 21, 1965, at Bogalusa, Louisiana, one Ernest Thomas who did most of the talking stated that the collection of initiation fees and dues are to be used to purchase radio equipment, walkie-talkies, literature and ammunition. Thomas pointed out Negroes should arm themselves, not only for defensive reasons, but that the Negroes should have roving patrols so that if a Negro was being arrested by a

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Gale

JHG:tjm
(6)

4 MAR 2 1965

CONTINUED - OVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP18K/fv

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
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Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

REC-1

3 MAR 18 1965

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12 Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
13 RE: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
14

15
16 police officer other Negroes could come to the aid of the arrested
17 person.
18

19 Immediate investigation was initiated by the field because
20 of the indicated potential for violence. Investigation is to include
21 the identification of Ernest Thomas and the activity of the organiza-
22 tion.
23
24

25 Information has been furnished to Secret Service as well as
26 military intelligence concerning this group. Investigation is being
27 closely followed.
28

29 ACTION:
30

31
32 Since information concerning the Deacons for Defense and
33 Justice has already been furnished to the Department, Mr. Reis'
34 attention will be called to the previous memoranda furnished to the
35 Civil Rights Division and the Internal Security Division.
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gfr

FBI

Date: 3/3/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS
SUBJECT: ORIGINAL KNIGHTS OF THE
KU KLUX KLAN
RM
NO FILE: 105-1057

TESTING OF LOCAL FACILITIES,
BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA;
PUBLIC ACCOMODATIONS,
PUBLIC FACILITES,
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964
RM
NO FILE: 173-201
BUFILE: 173-987

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA;
PERCY LEE BRADFORD
RM
NO FILE: 157-3290
BUFILE: 157-2466

Reference New Orleans teletype to Bureau
and New Orleans airtel to Bureau 2/26/65 entitled
"DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE; JONESBORO, LOUIS-
IANA; PERCY LEE BRADFORD, RM."

(9) - Bureau
7 - New Orleans { 2: 157-3290
 { 2: 173-201
 { 2: 105-1057
 { 1: 157-1319

FAS:sjt
(16)

CARBON COPY

157-2466

NOT RECORDED

202 MAR 19 1965

Approved: _____

Sent _____

M

Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

56 MAR 24 1965

[REDACTED] stated that they also discussed at some length the OKKKK, particularly as this pertained to Bogalusa, which he stated is without question the better organized units of all units in Louisiana.

He stated that they discussed together in some detail the advantages and disadvantages of making a request through the Louisiana Congressional Delegates, including Congressman HALE BOGGS, Senator ALLAN J. ELLENDER, Senator RUSSELL LONG, Congressman JAMES H. MORRISON, and others to apply pressure to some governmental investigative body with subpoena powers to investigate this organization in Louisiana. [REDACTED] stated the main feeling of the Governor was that if a governmental agency with subpoena power could inquire into the structure of the OKKKK and into its purposes and aims with respect to its violence potential, that this may cause the organization to dissolve as a result of its exposure to the public.

[REDACTED] emphasized that this matter is only in the talking stages at this time, but that he hoped that possibly some decision could be arrived at in the next couple of weeks as to the merits of making such a request. He stated that it was agreed that no action would be taken by the Governor until such time as the Governor again communicated with him and informed him of his plans.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that he is well aware of the FBI's responsibility with respect to organizations as The Deacons for Defense and Justice, and the OKKKK. He stated that he was most willing to co-operate at all times with the FBI, as he felt that the FBI had been of much assistance to [REDACTED] already in keeping the local authorities advised of potential demonstrations, etc. He stated that he would immediately advise the FBI of any information which he received from the Governor which would indicate the Governor's plans.

This matter is being followed on a continuing basis at Bogalusa and if any plans are finalized, the Bureau will be informed by letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination.

3-19-65

PLAINTEXT

1 - Mr. Trainor
1 - Mr. Freund

TELETYPE

DEFERRED

TO SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3693)

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL PAREN NEGRO END PAREN, JONESBORO,
LOUISIANA, RACIAL MATTER.

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL MARCH EIGHTEEN LAST.

NEW ORLEANS CONSIDER INTERVIEWING [REDACTED] AND

[REDACTED] DEACONS
FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC. IF REASON EXISTS FOR NOT INTERVIEW
LATER, ADVISE BUREAU DETAILS.

REMITTAL PRIOR BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS RE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE AND KEEP BUREAU CURRENTLY ADVISED. CONTINUE TO
OBTAIN DETERMINED MEMORANDA PROMPTLY. 157-2466-

FHF:JMW (5)

NOT RECORDED

174 MAR 24 1965

1 - Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.

NOTE: Deacons for Defense and Justice is a Negro group in
Louisiana allegedly formed to provide assistance to Negroes being
arrested. Group alleged to be arming. Captioned situation
involves Negroes protesting and demonstrating as result of rumor
that high school coach Kirkpatrick reportedly active in recent
civil rights activity was to be dismissed from position. Some
indication that Deacons for Defense and Justice might be involved
in violence in connection with this action. New Orleans
previously instructed to expedite investigation of alleged
organization to determine existence, leadership and activities
and to consider complete interviews of leaders. Teletype being
sent because of volatile racial situation and indication that
Deacons for Defense and Justice may be involved.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-16-80 BY SP1824/1K

DUPLICATE YELLOW OF
WIRE TRANSMITTED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

MR. BELMONT

DATE: March 15, 1965

FROM: J. H. GALE

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

As indicated in my previous memorandum today, Mr. Reis requested information concerning the above-captioned organization, in view of a conversation which Governor LeRoy Collins, Director of the Community Relations Service, had with the Attorney General this morning. Mr. Reis was referred to our memoranda dated February 24, and March 4, 1965, advising the Department concerning this extremely militant Negro organization.

Mr. Reis was appreciative of this information and advised that he had now received additional information that Governor Collins or his aide, [REDACTED] had received a tip that the Deacons for Defense and Justice, Jonesboro, Louisiana, would do something "drastic" in the next two or three days. He was unable to furnish any specifics but requested that Governor Collins be contacted to see what specifics he had concerning this matter.

ACTION

That Governor Collins be contacted to determine the specifics of the alleged information in his possession that the Deacons for Defense and Justice would do something drastic in the next two or three days and that the New Orleans Office be immediately alerted to this information for their assistance in closely following this organization -- if approved, to be handled by the Domestic Intelligence Division.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan

JHG:LS
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/16/80 BY SP1 GSK/jk

3 MAR 18 1965

58 MAR 20 1965

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

REC-1

Being done

159-2466 10

3-16-65

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

DEFERRED

TO SAC NEW ORLEANS

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL MARCH SIXTEEN INSTANT, CAPTIONED JACKSON
HIGH SCHOOL (NEGRO), JONESBORO, LOUISIANA. NEW ORLEANS EXPEDITE
INVESTIGATION OF CAPTIONED ALLEGED ORGANIZATION TO DETERMINE ITS
EXISTENCE, LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES. INVESTIGATION
SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO POINT WHERE FULL AND COMPLETE INTERVIEWS CAN
BE CONDUCTED [REDACTED] EXPEDITE AND KEEP BUREAU IMMEDIATELY
ADVISED OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

FHF:JMW (3)

NOTE: Deacons for Defense and Justice is a Negro group formed in
Louisiana with one Ernest Thomas apparently its spokesman. Thomas
has told Negroes they should arm themselves and form roving patrols
which will assist Negroes when the Negroes are being arrested.
Initiation fees and dues of the group are to be used to purchase
ammunition, radio ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ equipment and
literature. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current
investigation of this group to determine its activities and
leadership.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAR 16 1965

REC 53

57-2466-11

21 MAR 18 1965

TELETYPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gsk/18

56 MAR 26 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 16 1965

TELETYPE

NEW ORLS

FBI WASH DC

607PM DEFERRED 3-16-65 RPP

TO NEW ORLEANS

DIRECTOR 1P

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTERS (ORGNIZATION).

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL MARCH SIXTEEN INSTANT, CAPTIONED JACKSON
HIGH SCHOOL (NEGRO), JONESBORO, LOUISIANA. NEW ORLEANS EXPEDITE
INVESTIGATION OF CAPTIONED ALLEGED ORGANIZATION TO DETERMINE ITS
EXISTENCE, LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES. INVESTIGATION
SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO POINT WHERE FULL AND COMPLETE INTERVIEWS CAN
CONDUCTED [REDACTED] EXPEDITE AND KEEP BUREAU IMMEDIATELY
ADVISED OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

END

NO.....RJS

FBI NEW ORLS

TU CLR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1826/jr

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gml/jy/reb

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - Mr. Mohr

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Casper

1 - Mr. Callahan

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Felt

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Bland

1 - Mr. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Cregar

1 - Mr. Gray

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

This is to advise you of the nature of captioned organization and its current activities. The Deacons for Defense and Justice is a Negro group allegedly being formed in the State of Louisiana. Its headquarters are believed to be in Jonesboro, Louisiana. Its President is reportedly Percy Lee Bradford and its Vice President is reportedly Earnest Thomas. Thomas has told Negroes that they should arm and form roving patrols which will assist any Negroes who may be arrested. Initiation fees and dues of this alleged group are to be used to purchase ammunition, radio equipment and literature. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current investigation of this alleged group to determine if it is in existence, the identities of its leadership and its specific activities. Currently, the Deacons for Defense and Justice appear to be interested in a demonstration which has been occurring at the Jackson High School (Negro), Jonesboro, Louisiana. Students there have been demonstrating in protest of the rumored dismissal of the Athletic Coach F. D. Kirkpatrick for his recent activity in behalf of civil rights. School authorities have not made known whether the coach is to be dismissed or the basis for such a dismissal.

Leroy Collins, Director, Community Relations Service, Department of Commerce, has expressed an interest in captioned organization. Pertinent information has been furnished to the Community Relations Service, Civil Rights Division and Internal Security Division of the Department, as well as military intelligence agencies and appropriate state and local authorities in the State of Louisiana.

New Orleans is following this matter closely and has been instructed to expedite its investigation of the captioned organization. We have been pressing for early interviews of [redacted] for the deterrent value such interviews might have. New Orleans has advised that since [redacted] are taking an active part in negotiations through the Community Relations Service with school authorities in an effort to resolve this dispute, they will not be interviewed until after a meeting 3/22/65 of the school board and the leaders of factions involved. This seems reasonable because otherwise we might be injecting ourselves into the middle of this school dispute. We are continuing to press vigorously our investigation of captioned organization.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

AWG:chs:pah

(11)

REC-13
10 MAR 25 1965

FBI

Date: 3/26/65

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-91 BY SP1824/EC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290) (P)

SUBJECT: "CHANGED"
DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA
RM

The title is marked changed to show the correct corporate name of this organization, which was previously referred to before it was incorporated by the name Deacons for Defense and Justice.

Enclosed to the Bureau are 10 copies of a letterhead memorandum in this matter; the extra copies are submitted for the Bureau file in the matter captioned JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL (NEGRO), JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, RM.

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will conduct interviews with [REDACTED] of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Jonesboro, Louisiana, as set forth below to determine in detail the objectives of the organization and how these objectives are to be attained, with particular emphasis on possible use of firearms, potential for violence, any subversive and/or outside influence, whether patrols and guards

- 3 - Bureau (Enc-10)
- 4 - New Orleans (2-157-3290) (2-157-3693)

EC/bab (7)

REC-42

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER
DEPT ISD, CRD, C

DATE FORW: 4-6-65

HOW FORW:

BY MGT 157-2466

8 APR 8 1965

Approved

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

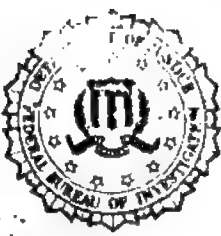
NO 157-3290

have been utilized and under what conditions; develop any information, particularly from [REDACTED] concerning the allegation [REDACTED] that this group has contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons; as instructed by Bureau by airtel dated 2/26/65 intensify efforts to develop sources relative to DDJ and be alert to discouraging illegal arming and illegal acts by the group through interviews. To be interviewed: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Additional information on this organization and its activity at Bogalusa, Louisiana, was furnished in memoranda dated February 24, 1965 captioned "Deacons for Defense and Justice"; and February 26, 1965 and March 4, 1965 captioned "Deacons for Defense and Justice, Jonesboro, Louisiana, Percy Lee Bradford."



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
March 25, 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 sch/ll

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

From July 1964 to October 9, 1964 the town of Jonesboro, Louisiana, had 5 Negro special police officers, during racial demonstrations and testing of Public Accommodations and Public Facilities under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Three of the officers were [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] -- all of whom had other employment and served on a part-time basis without pay. These Negro special police positions were discontinued by the town of Jonesboro on October 9, 1964.

[REDACTED] advised on January 5, 1965 the Negroes organized a Negro Patrol of the Negro section of town to guard against such incidents as a Ku Klux Klan motor parade through the Negro section which occurred July 16, 1964 also to remove the fear among Negroes of incidents that might occur from Klansmen going into the Negro Section for possible acts of reprisal in the Negro section or persons exercising their rights, particularly rights granted under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

[REDACTED] stated that he felt that the Negro section was in need of police protection, which he said could not be had from the regular law enforcement officers of the area, particularly after the special Negro police were discontinued. [REDACTED] stated that the name the group adopted was Deacons for Defense and Justice (later incorporated under the name Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., (DDJ). [REDACTED] stated that the leader of the group was Percy Lee Bradford. [REDACTED] said that DDJ patrols were not ordinarily armed but that they were to have available to them firearms if needed for self-defense.

[REDACTED] advised on January 5, 1965 that DDJ was a non-violent organization within Jackson Parish formed to promote justice for the Negro. [REDACTED] stated that the DDJ followed the same principals as laid down by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE),

ENCLOSURE

1-15-2466

NO 157-3290

except its members would, if attacked, defend themselves by use of force. He said the DDJ had two citizens band radios and two walkie talkies to be used to communicate with one another in case violence against a Negro should be initiated in Jackson Parish. [REDACTED] stated that there were between 250 and 300 members of DDJ within the parish; he said that they did not carry arms, although possession of shotguns and rifles for hunting is commonplace in the area. He said that the following were leaders at that time of DDJ, which was not chartered, or incorporated, at that time:

B. APPEAL

President: Percy Lee Bradford

Vice President: Henry Collins Amos

Secretary: [REDACTED]

Finance Secretary: [REDACTED]

Group Leaders: [REDACTED]

On January 5, 1965 [REDACTED]

and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that they were aware of the existence of such a group as DDJ and were aware of patrols of such a group.

[REDACTED] advised January 5, 1965 that an organization known as Deacons for Defense of Justice, with Percy Lee Bradford, Negro male, age about 44, as president, has been organized at Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated that this organization was organized to promote Negroes' civil rights and that its purposes were much the same as those of CORE. He stated that whereas CORE is completely non-violent in its methods of dealing with civil rights matters, DDJ would be more militant and inclined to use violence in dealing with any violent opposition encountered. He stated that the DDJ has night patrols in the Negro sections of Jonesboro and he feels that these night patrols are armed.

Following is a clipping from the New York Times, Sunday, February 21, 1965 under dateline February 19, 1965 at Jonesboro, Louisiana:

NO 157-3290

[REDACTED] advised on March 20, 1965 that [REDACTED] had been aware of the existence of such an organization as DDJ for about three or four months and had seen Negro men apparently on patrol, or on guard in areas of testing of public accommodations by Negroes under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He stated that the Negro men most often observed on the apparent patrols or guard details included Percy Lee Bradford, Earnest Thomas, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated also that an article had been submitted from Jonesboro and published in the New York Times on February 21, 1965 recounting real or imaginary activities of DDJ, and in the article statements were made that members of DDJ were armed and equipped with citizens band (CB) radios. [REDACTED] stated that transmissions by Negroes on CB radios had been monitored on many occasions at Jonesboro, indicating that the Negro patrols and guard details were on duty, but no record had been kept of such transmissions that were monitored.

[REDACTED] stated that on January 30, 1965 about 10 unknown white persons were visiting in Jonesboro at the CORE office during the day and that night they were at the Minute Spot, a Negro cafe, along with Percy Lee Bradford, Earnest Thomas, [REDACTED], and other Negroes. He stated that activities of that day indicated that the Negroes had been providing patrols and guards in connection with the visiting white persons and that night, just before midnight, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] drove by the Minute Spot Cafe and observed Bradford, Thomas, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] standing in front of the cafe. [REDACTED] was holding in his hands a shotgun, and the officers stopped and arrested him. [REDACTED] claimed that the shotgun was not his and that he was merely holding it, but he gave no information on whose gun it was or whom he got it from. Recovered from him was a 12 gauge shotgun loaded with a "ring" shell, and eight other "ring" shells were recovered from his pockets. A "ring" shell was described as a shotgun shell with a cut ring around the shell, so that when the shell is discharged in the gun, not only are the pellets expelled through the gun barrel, but a

NO 157-3290

portion of the shell casing is discharged with the load, making a large slug-type projectile. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was in the presence of Bradford, Thomas, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when he was arrested, and that they arrived at the jail promptly to bond him out after he was charged with displaying a dangerous weapon in a public place while under the influence of intoxicants. He said that [REDACTED] later entered a plea of guilty to the charge.

b7C
b7D

[REDACTED] stated that he felt reasonably sure that these patrols and guard details were armed, because on recent occasions some of those most active had been arrested and loaded firearms had been recovered from them when arrested.

[REDACTED] stated that a [REDACTED] who resides near Jonesboro City Hall, observed [REDACTED] leave his taxi near city hall during the period of police roadblocks on March 11, 1965 and walk toward the Negro section; he said she observed [REDACTED] return to the taxi later carrying a rifle. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was arrested on March 15, 1965 for carrying a concealed weapon, and at that time there were recovered from him a .22 caliber automatic rifle and a four-barrel .22 caliber pistol, both loaded; recovered from him also at the time of arrest were two walkie talkie CB radios.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was arrested on March 11, 1965 for resisting an officer and carrying a concealed weapon, and at the time of arrest there was recovered from him a .22 caliber automatic rifle, loaded, which [REDACTED] had been carrying in his car during the period of the demonstrations at Jackson High School (Negro) in Jonesboro.

and [REDACTED]

NO 157-3290

[REDACTED] advised on March 17, 1965 that Percy Lee Bradford and Earnest Thomas spoke out against the proposal of the school board that the students discontinue demonstrations and return to classes as a condition of the School Board's acceptance of the proposal to meet with the Negroes at Jackson High School on March 22, 1965. [REDACTED] supported the effort to get the students to discontinue demonstrations on March 17, 1965 as a basis for the meeting with the School Board, but because in part, at least, of the influence of Bradford and Thomas, President and Vice President, respectively of DDJ the demonstrations continued.

b7C
b7D

The corporation charter records of the office of Jackson Parish Clerk of Court, Jonesboro, Louisiana, under registry file number 172923, contain a charter of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., Jonesboro, Louisiana, filed March 8, 1965 showing that this organization, as a corporation, was formed March 5, 1965 by notarial act before James Sharp, Jr., Notary, and Attorney, at Monroe, Louisiana. Following is a copy of this charter as filed with the Jackson Parish Clerk of Court, Jonesboro, Louisiana:

172923

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OF

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

PARISH OF OUACHITA

BE IT KNOWN, That on this the 5th day of the Month of
March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Si
Five:

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public, in and for this Parish and
State, personally came and appeared the several parties of full
majority whose signatures are subscribed, who declared in the
presence of the undersigned competent witnesses, that availing
themselves of the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 19
Sections 12:101 - 12:155, they do hereby organize a nonprofit
corporation as defined in Revised Statute 12:101 (8) under and i
accordance with these articles of incorporation.

ARTICLE I. "NAME"

The name of this corporation is "Deacons of Defense and
Justice, Inc."

ARTICLE II. "PURPOSES"

This corporation is organized for the following purposes
and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, tea
and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minorit
groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of
government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, t
and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution a
laws of the United State and the State of Louisiana, as well as
constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation
may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons
the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote;
instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties
responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation

6 duties of the citizen to the community or the obligation and duties
7 of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train
8 and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in
9 the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons
10 a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corpor-
11 ation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense
12 of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said
13 people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and
14 legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corpor-
15 ation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place
16 in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.

17 ARTICLE III. "DURATION"

18 This corporation shall enjoy corporate existence for a
19 period of ninety-nine (99) years from date hereof.

20 ARTICLE IV. "REGISTERED OFFICE"

21 The location and post office address of its registered
22 office shall be: Amos Service Station, (rear), Beach Spring Road,
23 Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

24 ARTICLE V. "REGISTERED AGENTS"

25 The full names and post office addresses of its registered
26 agents are:

- 27 1. Earnest Thomas, P. O. Box 472, Jonesboro, Louisiana.
- 28 2. Elmo Jacobs, P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

29 ARTICLE VI. "BASIS OF ORGANIZATION"

30 This corporation shall be organized without capital stock
31 and membership shall be evidenced by certificates of membership. The
32 membership shall be constituted and composed of all of the under-
signed incorporators and all persons hereinafter who apply for
membership and satisfactory show that they are dedicated to the
proposition of protecting through any and all legal means those
rights granted by appropriate law to all Citizens of the United
States of America and particularly members of minority groups and

are accepted as members by a majority of the members of this corporation present and voting at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE VII. "BOARD OF DIRECTORS"

The affairs of this corporation shall be managed by a board of directors consisting of five (5) members of this corporation from the time of incorporation until said number is changed by amendment to the article or by-laws of this corporation and the following shall constitute the first Board of Directors:

1. Percy Lee Bradford P. O. Box 95, Jonesboro, Louisiana
2. Earnest Thomas P. O. Box 492, Jonesboro, Louisiana
3. Charlie White P. O. Box 733, Jonesboro, Louisiana
4. Cosetta Jackson General Delivery, Jonesboro, Louisiana
5. Elmo Jacobs P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana

The qualification, term of office, manner of election, election, powers and duties of the directors, the time and place and manner of calling, giving notice and of conducting directors meetings and number of directors which shall constitute a quorum, shall be prescribed by the by-laws.

ARTICLE VII. "POWER AND CAPACITY"

This corporation shall have the capacity to act possessed by natural person and shall have authority to perform those acts which are necessary and proper to accomplish the purposes expressed or implied in these articles or that may be incidental thereto and shall have all the power, authority and capacity of a nonprofit corporation as provided for by Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 12:101 - 12:155 without limiting said powers, this corporation shall have the power and authority to receive, hold and administer property in trust as provided by law, to sue and be sued in the corporate name, to make and use a corporate seal, to hold, purchase, lease, mortgage, sell and receive by donation or otherwise, real,

personal or mixed property, to borrow money or to issue, negotiate, sell and pledge evidences of indebtedness and to secure same by pledges, deeds of trust or mortgage, of both the whole or any part of the property of this corporation; and to receive, collect and pay out money for the accomplishment of its corporate purposes.

ARTICLE IX. "OFFICERS"

The Board of Directors shall elect the following officers:
A President, who shall be chairman of the Board of Directors, a Vice-President, who shall be Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The board shall regulate and collect dues from all members according to its by-laws made for said purpose.
The Board of Directors may create new offices and regulate the duties of the officers as it may deem advisable. The first officers are:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
1.	Percy Lee Bradford	President
2.	Earnest Thomas	Vice-President
3.	Charlie White	Secretary
4.	Cosetta Jackson	Treasurer

ARTICLE X.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, amend and repeal by-laws to govern this corporation provided they are in accordance with and do not conflict with these articles.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, said Incorporators have hereunto signed their names at Monroe, Louisiana, in the presence of
Barbara L. Sharp and Geraldine Williams, legal and competent witnesses, and me, said Notary Public, on this the 5th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Five.

WITNESSES:

Barbara L. Sharp

Geraldine Williams

Notary Public

Percy Lee Bradford
PERCY LEE BRADFORD

Earnest Thomas
EARNEST THOMAS

Elmo Jacobs
ELMO JACOBS

Charlie White
CHARLIE WHITE

NO 157-3290

On March 24, 1965, [REDACTED] was contacted and interviewed regarding another matter [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] voluntarily furnished information that he is a member of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. (DDJ), Jonesboro, which he described as a civic organization dedicated to civic improvement in the Negro community and to protection of the civil rights of persons in the Negro community. [REDACTED] stated that DDJ is entirely non-violent, but that some of the members have firearms for self-defense and for protection against persons, possibly connected with the Ku Klux Klan, who might go to the Negro section of town to engage in violence. There was observed a double-barrel shotgun, a single-barrel shotgun, a .30 caliber rifle and a .22 caliber rifle all standing in the corner of the office [REDACTED]. The .30 caliber rifle was observed to have the name [REDACTED] tagged on it. During the conversation with [REDACTED], it was observed that [REDACTED] walked into the office, and [REDACTED] handed him a loaded .45 caliber revolver in a leather holster from the desk drawer.

[REDACTED] stated that members of the DDJ do not engage in armed patrols, but that the stories of their armed patrols were given out to discourage klansmen and persons of that kind from going into the Negro section to cause trouble. He stated that there have been a number of crosses burned in the Negro section within the last year or two, and that one night in July, 1964, a motercade of about 30 cars with persons wearing hoods and white robes drove through the Negro section of town, led by a police car of the Jonesboro Police Department.

[REDACTED] took from his desk a copy of the charter of DDJ, and he stated that the officers and members of the Board of Directors of the organization are responsible, civic-minded residents of Jonesboro. He stated that the organization has a very limited membership, although it had made claim of a very large membership in order to be more effective in discouraging persons from entering the Negro section for the purpose of causing trouble.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as representatives of DDJ, had a meeting with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

NO 157-3290

Jonesboro, Louisiana, on the morning of March 24, 1965, and presented to them a plan for civil improvement of the Negro section of Jonesboro, including a clean-up drive and a plan for street signs and house numbers throughout the Negro section.

██████████ stated that DDJ definitely does not advocate violence and that the use of firearms would be approved only for self-defense or for use to prevent klansmen or organized groups from entering the Negro section to beat up a resident of the area or to engage in acts of violence against a resident of the area. ██████████ stated that he felt that ██████████ of DDJ would be glad to furnish information to the FBI about the DDJ.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Memorandum

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/30/65

SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) (P)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA; PERCY LEE
BRADFORD
RACIAL MATTERS

ReNOairtel dated February 24, 1965.

During the period March 9, 1965, to April 27, 1965, a number of firearm dealers in Chicago, Illinois, have been contacted relative to investigation requested in referenced communication. Based on information furnished by these dealers, determination cannot be made with any degree of certainty as to shipments of firearms to the Jonesboro, Bogalusa, or New Orleans area on the basis of available descriptive data.

Representatives of gun dealers in Chicago from whom firearms can be purchased either on an over-the-counter retail basis or through mail order purchases are the following:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gcl/jk

REC-33

2-Bureau
3-New Orleans (157-3290)
(1 - 173-201)
1-Chicago

RJD:MDW
(6)

1 copies made

3-20-78 DJC/PFB
for review at FBIHQ by
HSCA: request 3-8-78 re
Waldman

EX 109

9 MAY 3 1965

SUBV. CONTROL

64 MAY 1965

As a result of interviews conducted with the above identified individuals, the following points are noted which, in effect, would preclude an exacting search of gun dealer records in Chicago, Illinois, for shipments of firearms to the named Louisiana areas:

- 1) It is noted that no law in the State of Illinois requires dealer registration of weapons other than hand guns and normally only the name and address of the purchaser as furnished by the purchaser is recorded. No effort is made to insure that the identities and addresses furnished are, in fact, authentic.
- 2) In most cases weapons control procedures utilized by a given firm are set up according to description of weapon by serial number or by date of transaction.
- 3) In cases where customers' names are maintained alphabetically, no index is available which would refer to the particular locality in which that customer resides.
- 4) Purchases made by Chicago area residents for individuals in communities outside the Chicago area may in most cases list only local addresses.

It is noted that on March 9, 1965, [REDACTED] identified above, whose firm is one of the largest gun dealers in the Midwest, advised that based on information available to him, he would estimate that there are approximately 25 firearm dealers in the Chicago, Illinois, area who are known to deal in the sale of weapons on a mail order basis. Of this

number, he said many are considered to deal in large volumes of guns. [REDACTED] added he could not speculate as to the number of small dealers who have occasion to do business out of state. He extemporaneously furnished a list of eleven known volume dealers which list is maintained by the Chicago Office. Included therein are such firms as Sears Roebuck and Company, Montgomery Ward, and Spiegel's, each of which has a large mail order business throughout the United States in addition to regular retail sales through their various retail outlets.

[REDACTED] stated that to search records of the many Chicago firms which are recognized as gun outlets would very likely be a monumental task. He explained that not having a description of weapon, date of purchase, identity of buyer, or area to which shipped, would make an exacting search extremely difficult. He noted that by having any of the above information, a search of such records would be facilitated.

For the information of the New Orleans Office and to exemplify the problems encountered in such a record search, it is noted that during a past investigation conducted by the Chicago Office a search of the weapons records of Klein's Sporting Goods was necessitated. This search utilized the services of six individuals for a continuous five-hour period. In connection with this search, the serial number of the weapon in question and that weapon's description were available prior to initiation of this search.

In view of the above, should the New Orleans Office request that the search of gun outlets be made, it is desired that efforts be made to develop further specific information regarding sale and/or shipment of weapons to the named Louisiana communities. Immediately upon receipt of the advice of New Orleans, this search will be initiated at Chicago, Illinois.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ FBI

Date: 6/10/65

Transmit the following in

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

AIRTEL

Via

OTHERWISE

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP184/4 2-11

REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4. 2 2

DATE OF REVIEW 6-10-85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442684)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (157-768) (P)

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT
IS - RAM
(OO: CHICAGO)

Re Detroit airtel with LHM to the Bureau, dated 6/3/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter. One copy of the LHM being furnished C-2 and two copies of the LHM being furnished U.S. Secret Service, both Detroit, Mich. Two copies are also being furnished Chicago which is office of origin in this matter and two copies are being furnished New Orleans which has an apparent interest in view of mention of "The Deacons for Defense and Justice", which reportedly originated in the State of Louisiana.

The contents of the LHM have been made available to [redacted] and [redacted]

The LHM is being classified confidential since information contained therein could reasonably result in the identification of informants of continuing value and thereby compromise the future effectiveness thereof. 157-2466- [redacted]

NOT RECORDED

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 9) (RM) JUN 22 1965
- 2 - Chicago (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 4 - Detroit

(1 - 157-835 FWHC)

(1 - 157-706 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)

FJP/emc
(11)

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

JUN 12 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~


Special Agent in Charge

61 JUN 30 1965

Per [redacted]
NIGHT INTR. SEC.

DE 157-768

CONFIDENTIAL

 (c)
This matter is being followed closely by the Detroit
Office and the Bureau will be advised of pertinent develop-
ments.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Reply, Please Refer to

Detroit, Michigan
June 10, 1965

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

Reference is made to Detroit memorandum dated
June 3, 1965, captioned as above.

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] (c)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
CLASSIFICATION
7/16/80 SP1804/8

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1804 / 7-16-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-10-85

157-2466-

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

(c)

(c)

b1

(c)

"Bogalusa, La. - An armed league of Negroes, formed for defense against white terrorism, is spreading across the South.

"The Deacons for Defense and Justice, born last summer in northern Louisiana, has crossed the Mississippi River into Mississippi and Alabama and plan to move into every Southern state.

"The Deacons have guns and they have shown they are willing to use them. Twice in Louisiana they have opened fire on harassing whites.

"The organization raises a hard question for advocates of nonviolence. Should a civil rights organization committed to nonviolence align itself with the Deacons and accept its services, as one organization has done, at least tacitly if not by design?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

"The Deacons are causing concern among law enforcement authorities in Louisiana.

"The organization was formed largely out of a belief that Negroes could not expect impartial treatment from white lawmen and that, if they were to be defended against church burnings, bombings, beatings, killings have to do it themselves.

"Ernest Thomas of Jonesboro, La., 32, the vice president and full-time organizer of the Deacons, said that the organization had 50 to 55 chapters in various stages of organization in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

"He declined to disclose the number of members. Outsiders have guessed from 5,000 to 15,000, he said, but he would not indicate that either figure was correct. The membership, probably, is not large.

* * *

"The main strength is in Louisiana. The incursions across the Mississippi appear to be tentative and exploratory.

"Thomas visited the Deacons in Bogalusa Friday in the wake of the murder of O'Neal Moore, one of Washington Parish's first Negro deputy sheriffs. He was interviewed at the home of Robert Ricks, a Bogalusa Negro leader whose home has become the headquarters of the Bogalusa civil rights movement.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

"Richard Haley of New Orleans, the Southern Director of the Congress of Racial Equality, participated in the interview. CORE and the Deacons are on friendly terms. Many Deacon chapters are in towns that have CORE staffers at work.

"Haley said the connection between the two organizations began accidentally at Jonesboro when CORE discovered that its workers were safer with the Deacons around.

* * *

"Thomas said the Deacons were armed with rifles and pistols.

"'Everybody has his own piece', he said. The organization provides ammunition, which it buys in quantity for savings.

"Thomas hopes to standardize weapons to effect further savings. He favors the 30 - caliber Army carbine and the 38 - caliber pistol. Some members have automatic carbines that will fire 30 rounds like a machinegun. Most now use shotguns, Thomas said.

"Thomas and Haley share a concern that the Deacons may be painted as aggressive and trigger happy. They were organized strictly for defense and they are highly disciplined, Thomas said.

"One of their main jobs is to protect civil rights workers and

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

"volunteers participating civil rights activities. A person knowingly exposes himself to white violence when he walks a picket line. But when at night he is entitled to rest without worry, and that's where the Deacons come in, Thomas said.

"With Percy Lee Bradford of Jonesboro as president, the Deacons were incorporated in March as a non-profit corporation in Louisiana."

(c)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: Revolutionary Action Movement
(RAM)

[REDACTED] b1 that three of (c)
the individuals in attendance at this FWHC meeting,
namely [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] are also local RAM members.

A characterization of RAM is
contained in the appendix
hereto.

All unidentified sources utilized in
the appendix have furnished reliable
information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations
nor conclusions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
(FBI). It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to
your agency; it and its contents are not to be distri-
buted outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPENDIX

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled, "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto", the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of RAM.

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963, by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto reflected that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the non-white races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding WILLIAMS, above, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the Crime of Kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, WILLIAMS fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

On November 16, 1965, a second source advised that he learned recently from a RAM member that the organization was begun in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of DON FREEMAN, Cleveland, Ohio, described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to as RAM's "Black Stalin". FREEMAN now serves as RAM Chairman, with MAXWELL STANFORD, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving RAM as Field Chairman. This second source advised that there is no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM at present, but that headquarters are, in effect, with FREEMAN since he plays a dominant role in the leadership and directs the policies and activities of the organization.

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13 This second source, in September, 1964, advised that
14 RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system
15 in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its
16 replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese
17 Communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely
18 non-white in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its
19 primary allegiance to the "Bandung World", that is, the non-white
20 races of the world, rather than to any national entity, as such.

21
22 To date, according to the second source, in
23 November, 1964, RAM has organized units and membership in several
24 of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi
25 River, and the organization is currently active, attempting to
26 recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.
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CONFIDENTIAL

TRUE COPY

West Des Moines, Iowa
June 16, 1965.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed are some clippings taken from the Des Moines Sunday Register, Des Moines, Iowa, relating to the Deacons, an organization headed up by one Ernest Thomas, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

This organization seems to be patterned after all similar groups such as Minutemen, KKK and similar groups which parade under the guise of being a defensive organizations. It is a Negro organization and purports to take the law into its own hand rather than permit local, state and federal officials and courts to handle this. Armed with high powered weapons, some of which have great fire power, such groups unless kept under rigid surveillance and control could lead to bloodshed and anarchy.

It is also surprising the apparent ease with which these people obtained these weapons when they are denied to the average citizen.

Some of my friends are deeply disturbed by this organization as well as other similar armed mobs. Hence the reason for this letter.

I am not interested in what has been found out about this group but only if it has come to your attention and is receiving investigative attention.

Please be advised your support out this way is very strong and unwavering. People still have the greatest confidence in the FBI and in these troublesome times provides an anchor to which people can tie.

Wishing you many more years of continued success.

Very truly yours,

X Agent

8 JUN 23 1965

XEROX

JUL 7 1965

PERS. REC. UNIT

[REDACTED] b7C
West Des Moines Iowa
June 16, 1965

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DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1241/PL

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in these troublesome times provide
an anchor to which people can tie.
Wishing you every more
success of continued success,
Very truly yours,

X [redacted] X
[redacted]

b7C

Des Moines Sunday
Register, June 6, 1965

ARMED DIXIE Page 1. NEGRO LEAGUE IS SPREADING

50 Chapters Now In 3 States

By Roy Reed
New York Times News Service

BOGALUSA, LA.—An armed league of Negroes, formed to defend Negroes against white terrorism, is spreading across the South.

The Deacons for Defense and Justice, born last summer in northern Louisiana, has crossed the Mississippi River to Mississippi and Alabama and plans to move into every Southern state.

The Deacons have guns and they have shown they are willing to use them. Twice in Louisiana they have opened fire on harassing whites.

The organization raises a hard question for advocates of non-violence. Should a civil rights organization committed to non-violence align itself with the Deacons and accept its services, as one organization has done, at least tacitly if not by design?

Doubt Law

The Deacons are causing concern among law enforcement authorities in Louisiana. The organization was formed largely out of a belief that Negroes could not expect impartial treatment from white lawmen and that, if they were to be defended against church burnings, bombings, beatings, killings and terrorism, they would have to do it themselves.

Earnest Thomas of Jonesboro, La., the 32-year-old vice-president and organizer of the Deacons, said Friday that the organization had 50 to 55 chapters in various stages of organization in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

He declined to disclose the number of members. Outsiders have guessed from 5,000 to 15,000, he said, but he would not indicate that either figure was correct.

The main strength is in Louisiana. The incursions across the Mississippi appear to be tentative and exploratory, with considerable organizational work still to be done.

Thomas said the Deacons could spread to every Southern state in six or seven months, "with hard work."

Visits Members

Thomas visited the Deacons in Bogalusa Friday in the wake

DEACONS —

Continued on Page Eight

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ARMED WITH RIFLES, PISTOLS

DEACONS---

Continued from Page One

of the murder of O'Neal Moore, one of Washington Parish's first Negro deputy sheriffs. Many Deacon chapters are in towns that have CORE staffers at work.

Richard Haley of New Orleans, the southern director of the Congress of Racial Equality, said the connection between the two organizations began accidentally at Jonesboro when CORE discovered that its workers were safer with the Deacons around.

Thomas said the Deacons were armed with rifles and pistols.

"Everybody owns his own piece," he said. The organization provides ammunition, which it buys in quantity for savings.

He hopes to standardize weapons to effect further savings. He favors the 30-caliber Army carbine and the 38-caliber pistol. Some members have automatic carbines that will fire 30 rounds like a machine gun. Most now use shotguns, Thomas said.

Thomas and Haley share a concern that the Deacons may be painted as aggressive and trigger-happy. They were organized strictly for defense and they are highly disciplined, Thomas said.

One of their main jobs is to protect civil rights workers and volunteers participating in civil rights activities. A person knowingly exposes himself to white violence when he walks a picket line. But when he goes to bed at night he is entitled to rest and not worry, and that's where the Deacons come in, Thomas said.

Started in March

Wm Percy Lee Bradford of Jonesboro was president. The Deacons were incorporated in

March as a non-profit corporation in Louisiana.

The idea started last summer in Jonesboro after a Ku Klux Klan parade through a Negro street, Thomas said. He said the Klan rode through the street throwing out leaflets with a Jonesboro police escort.

"We decided that if the power structure would do that for the Klan, then we had better do

something for ourselves," he said.

\$25,000 AWARD

BOGALUSA, LA. (AP)—Gov. John J. McKeithen, in a tough mood over racial troubles here, offered a \$25,000 cash reward Saturday to help crack the ambush slaying of a Negro deputy.

McKeithen, after meeting with the ranking investigators in the slaying of Washington Parish Deputy O'Neal Moore, met with

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REC-93

157-2466-15

June 22, 1965

[REDACTED]

b7C

West Des Moines, Iowa

Dear [REDACTED]:

Your letter of June 16th has been received, and it was good to hear from you. Your best wishes and the confidence in the work being handled by the Bureau expressed in your letter are also deeply appreciated.

Thank you for forwarding the newspaper clippings. Your observations are being made a matter of record.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Correspondent is on the Special Correspondents' List. He EOD [REDACTED] and retired [REDACTED]. His file is satisfactory. [REDACTED] DCL/ufp The Deacons for Defense and Justice are subject of Bufile 157-246 (3)

MAILED 25
JUN 22 1965
COMM-FBI

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP/82/1/k J. K. K.

70 JUL 3 1965

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FBI

FBI

Date: 6/15/65

Transmit the following in _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(P)

RE: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
aka "The Deacons;"
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: New Orleans

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/86/7-10-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-15-88

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight (8) copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) setting out observations of SA [redacted] who viewed Los Angeles TV Channel 11, Sunday night, 6/13/65 observing the "LOUIS LOMAX Show." CHARLES SIMS from Bogalusa, Louisiana, who claimed to be the spokesman for "The Deacons" was the featured guest. Xerox copies of two newspaper articles appearing in the "Los Angeles Times" dated 6/13 and 14/65 were made a part of this LHM. It is noted that one newspaper article reported that "The Deacons" had machine guns and other weapons in their private arsenal. Three copies of the LHM are enclosed for New Orleans. Locally, copies of the LHM are being sent to Region II, 115th ITC, Pasadena; Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, Los Angeles and Secret Service, Los Angeles.

6/14/65 SA [redacted] orally on (C)

- 3 - Bureau (Encls. 8) ENCLOSURE
2 - New Orleans (Encls. 3) (AM-REGISTERED)
3 - Los Angeles
(1 - [redacted])

MIB:bjs
(8)

lcc & cc LHM

808 RB

Approved: _____

53 JUN 23 1965 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INT. SEC.

Class 4
8/21/88

LA 157-1184

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] b1

It is being noted that subsequent to the appearance of SIMS on the foregoing described TV program, anonymous telephone protests were received at the Los Angeles Office complaining as to the aims and arms of SIMS and "The Deacons" which indicated to them the formation of a "Negro KKK."

LEAD

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. Will report the departure of SIMS from Los Angeles.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

June 15, 1965

Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
also known as "The Deacons;"
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS

APPROX 1965

A Special Agent of the FBI viewed the "Louis Lomax TV Show," Channel 11, Los Angeles, California, beginning 11 p.m., Sunday night, June 13, 1965. Charles Sims, the featured guest, described himself as "The Man" in "The Deacons" in Bogalusa, Louisiana, saying he was 41 years old, a native of Bogalusa, Louisiana, had finished one year of high school, had served four years and five months in the U. S. Army attaining the rank of Technical Sergeant. He had sold industrial insurance prior to becoming associated with "The Deacons" and currently is working as an underwriter for a builders' insurance group.

Sims was observed to be a male, Negro, graying at the temples, balding on the top of his head and a scar was noticed in the middle of his chin. He appeared to be about 5'10" and of medium build.

Sims stated that "The Deacons" were organized about six months ago and that now there are from 50 to 60 chapters in three or four states. He declined to give the total numerical membership. He claimed "The Deacons" were organized for the purpose of protecting civil rights workers who could not obtain protection from local law enforcement authorities.

Sims stated that "The Deacons" are armed and are buying more arms with which to defend themselves. He admitted he is aware that it is not legal for them to carry weapons, but that he "would rather be caught with a weapon than without one in Bogalusa."

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DATE 7-12-80 BY SP/SP/ST

ENCLOSURE

157-271-16

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
also known as "The Deacons;"
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS

He voiced the opinion that in the event of "trouble" that "blood would be flowing down the streets like water." He claimed he could rally 100 armed men within fifteen minutes notice and had done so previously. He claimed he had used his gun twice but did not elaborate.

Any suggestions made to this program while Sims was being interviewed which favored "non-violence" were unacceptable to Sims and to the audience who applauded Sims wildly with Lomax commending Sims.

At the conclusion of the program, Lomax stated Sims would spend the next few days in Los Angeles meeting with various civil rights organizations.

A newspaper article entitled "Negro 'Deacons' Claim They Have Machine Guns, Grenades for 'War'", and dated June 13, 1965 appeared in the "Los Angeles Times," "Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer," was copied and is a part of the letterhead memorandum.

A second newspaper article entitled "Deacons Chief Defends Aims on Visit to L.A." appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" dated June 14, 1965 which was the results of an interview with Sims by Times Staff Writer Paul Weeks, also was copied and made a part of this letterhead memorandum.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Negro 'Deacons' Claim They Have Machine Guns, Grenades for 'War'

Exclusive to The Times from
a Staff Writer

BOGALUSA, La.—At two secret meetings, both attended by representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Deacons for Defense and Justice claimed to have machine guns and grenades for use in racial warfare. The Los Angeles Times learned that the Bogalusa chapter of the armed Negro vigilante group discussed the use of those and other military-type weapons at its organizational meeting last night and again at a meeting the following day. The Deacons insist their purpose is only defensive, however, at both February meetings they heard of pressure being brought to bear on Negro residential areas. CORE has co-operated with the Deacons in civil rights work in Bogalusa and Bogalusa Negroes get fair

trials and having armed confrontations with policemen when Negroes are arrested.

The rising militancy of the Deacons and the expansion of the movement is a new element in the civil rights struggle which federal and state officials view with increasing concern.

In Bogalusa a veteran police officer said:

"They are flirting with danger. The other night there was a little commotion and rumors of trouble in the colored community. The Deacons hopped in their cars and went zipping around the streets.

"If they keep that up they are bound to run into trouble."

CORE has co-operated with the Deacons in civil rights work in Bogalusa and Bogalusa Negroes get fair

of Deacons was organized in Jonesboro last summer, reportedly with the aid of CORE members, to protect Negroes and civil rights workers from armed racists.

Earnest Thomas, 32, of Jonesboro, an official and full-time organizer of the Deacons, has told newsmen that there are now 50 to 55 chapters in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Fund-raising units are being established in San Francisco, New York and other large cities, he said.

Thomas and another official of the parent group, Frederick Douglas Kirkpatrick, a high school coach in Jonesboro, came to Bogalusa in February to organize the local chapter.

With them were two white CORE workers—Steve Mil-

Please Turn to Pg. 16, Col. 1

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 6/13/65

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: Deacons For
Defense & JUSTICE

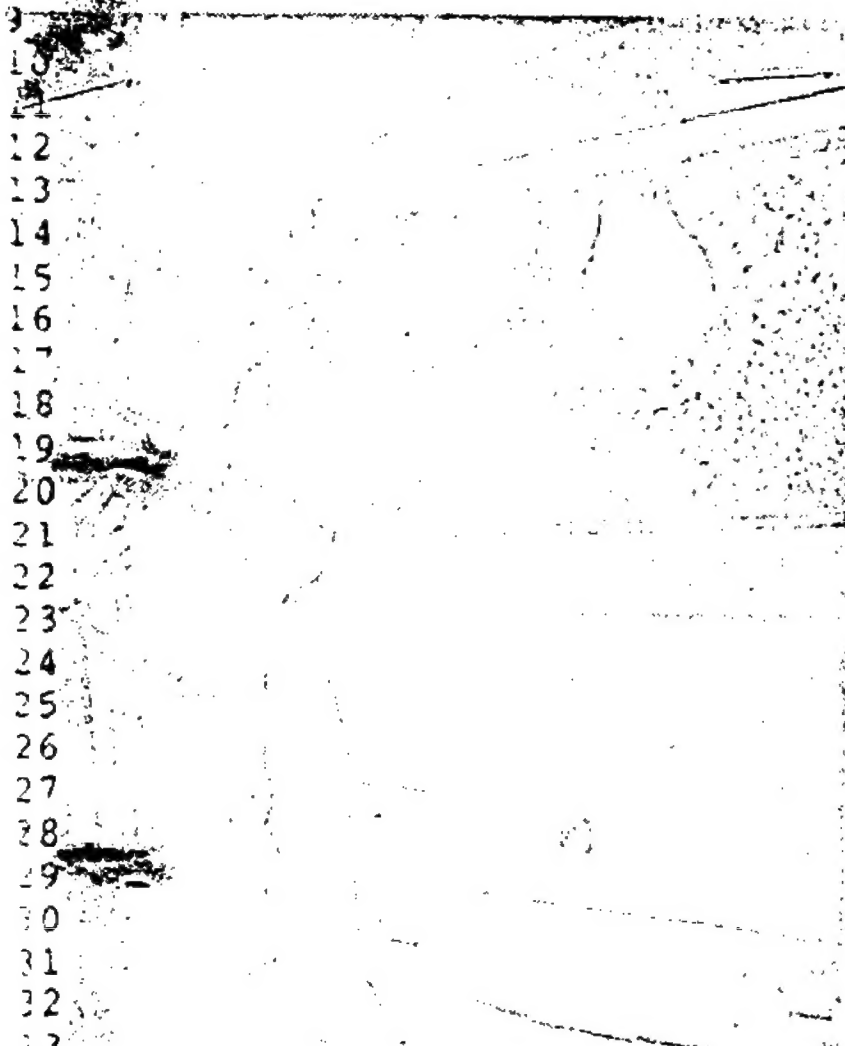
Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated



SURVEYS DAMAGE—Robert Hicks, vice president of Bogalusa Voters League, surveys damage to car parked in front of his house which he said was fired from passing auto. He returned gunfire.

AP Wirephoto

99, of San Francisco a
out of Antioch College in
and William Yates, 32,
ston, a former Cornell
2sh professor.
3ss than three weeks be-
4he organizational meet-
5Miller and Yates report-
6y were shot at and bea-
7y racists in Bogalusa.
8e night of April 7 Yates
9staying at the home of
0n Robert Hicks when
19 fired back at whites
20hot at his home.)
3 Combat 'Inevitable'
42 the organizational
5ing, Kirkpatrick dis-
6ed racial combat as
7it is inevitable. The
8es learned.

"It takes violent blacks to combat these violent whites," he declared. "It takes non-violent whites and non-violent Negroes to sit down and bargain whenever the thing is over—and iron it out. I ain't about to."
"We're gonna be ready for 'em. We're gonna have to be ready to survive."
About 15 persons attended the organizational meeting at a Negro union hall here Feb. 21. They included Charles Sims, an ex-cab driver with a police record of assaults and concealed weapons, who was elected chap-ten president; A. Z. Young, president of the Bogalusa Cl-ric and Voters League, elect-ed vice president, and Robert Hicks, another Vo-ters League official.

Both Sims and Hicks re-
fused to tell a Times reporter
whether Bogalusa Deacons
are armed with machine
guns and other military-type
weapons.

"You know better than to
ask me questions like that,"
said Sims.

Hicks said, "You don't tell
your opponents what you're
doing in any kind of con-
flict."

Powerful Weapons Urged

Kirkpatrick warned the
new Deacons against "the
tendency to buy something
cheap, like a little ole .22-cal-
iber rifle." He said, "That's
no weapon—you need high-
powered rifles."

"If you gonna use a pis-
tol," he said, "use a .38. A
shotgun is good to have for
close-distance firing."

Dacons standardized
their weapons, he said, mak-
ing it practical to buy ammu-
nition by the case.

"If you got only three or
four bullets," he said,
"you're out of the fight be-
fore it starts. Keep plenty of
ammo at your house, in your
car wherever you are. Be
ready. I carry with me most
all the time a hundred
rounds."

Thomas interjected, "We
have contacts in Chicago and

Houston for automatic wep-
pons—for .50-caliber and .30-
caliber."

Someone asked, "What's
that, machine guns?"

"Yeah—and we got gre-
nades too," Thomas said.
"We want to be ready if they
want to be violent."

Radio Communications

Thomas explained that
Deacons pay \$10 initiation
fees and \$2 a month dues to
their local chapters, which in
turn pay the parent organi-
zation \$100, plus 10% of
dues. In return, he said, the
parent group helps equip lo-
cal chapters with two-way
radio equipment.

The same week the Boga-
lusa chapter was formed,
other Louisiana units were
being established in Baton
Rouge, New Iberia and Pla-
quemine.

Thomas told the Bo-
galusa group that Deacons
chapters have inter-city ra-
dio communications so they
can call for reinforcements
in case of emergencies.

The use of walkie-talkies
for patrol work was de-
scribed by Yates and Miller,
the CORE workers.

Kirkpatrick said Deacons
would not "protect the man
who is in the wrong," but
would want to "check things
out and make sure he gets a
fair trial."

"The whites will pester
you," commented one Dea-
con, "but when they see the
hardware, they will take
cover."

400 Attend Meeting

The mass meeting the fol-
lowing day was attended by
about 400 persons. The
grounds around the union
hall were heavily patrolled
by Deacons. No newsmen
were present.

The formation of the Boga-
lusa chapter was announced
by Hicks, who said that
CORE had brought two offi-
cials of the Deacons from
Jonesboro to organize the
unit.

Hicks said the Bogalusa
chapter would be "the same
as in Jonesboro. They got
radios, walkie-talkies, gre-
nades, gas bombs, M-1 rifles.
They set up a patrol system
for the Negro community."

With the Deacons patroll-
ing, Hicks said, "No white
person will be allowed in a
Negro area at night—sales-
men or anybody." Thunder-
ous applause and cheers
greeted that remark.